



NLG NEWSLETTER

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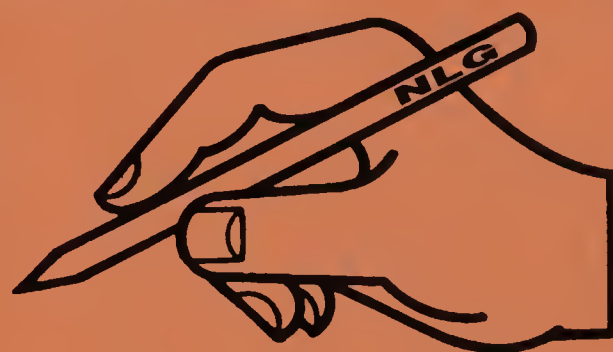
IT'S CONTEST TIME!

1998 WRITERS' COMPETITION DEADLINE JUNE 20, 1998

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 20, 1998

AND RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 25, 1998.

Remember the Contest Address: Scott Travers, c/o Sal Germano, SGRC Inc., 625 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne NJ 07506



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK... BY DAVID T. ALEXANDER

Someone once said that "time passes quickly when you're having fun."

It must have been an uproarious year, then, because here we are looking at the annual NLG Writers' Competition for the 30th time, more or less. Strictly speaking, this will be the 20th year of the contest under our present rules, compiled by Abe Kosoff at the request of then-Executive Director Virginia Culver.

Both of those Guild stalwarts are now in that great Press Room beyond the sky, but their canon has stood the test of time and, with some refinements, is still the basis of our contest. We receive suggestions, criticism and advice every year about the competition, but thus far no program has been brought forward that would serve as well.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, Executive Director Ed Reiter brings our readers the full set of regulations. Please read them CAREFULLY. As a veteran director of eight contests myself, let me add an urgent recommendation of my own: Be SURE to attach COVER SHEETS as indicated to each of your submissions! It's the dickens for those preparing YOUR material for shipment to the judges to have to break off late on some hurried Sunday night to create cover sheets for you.

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED

In the last year, death has claimed a startling number of NLG members.

Last May, our Texas contingent was reduced by the death of Stanford M. "Mac" Kennady, a charter member of the Texas

Numismatic Association and a longtime collector of the coins of Mexico. His region lost an enthusiastic club leader, as well as a pioneer collector, researcher and exhibitor of the coins of our southern neighbor with Mac's passing.

Another Texas loss came on April 4, 1998, when Harry W. Bass Jr. passed away. Mr. Bass was a quintessential Texas oilman, a Navy veteran of World War II, a leader in his state's Republican Party, an ardent developer of ski facilities in Vail and Beaver Creek, Colo., and an active layman in the Methodist Church. His memory will be perpetuated by two non-profit foundations: the Harry Bass Foundation created by his father, which supports Dallas-area cultural institutions and numismatic organizations nationwide, and his own Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation, dedicated to

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY ED REITER

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Back in the days when popular music actually had hummable melodies and decipherable lyrics, there was a beautiful song called "Spring Will Be a Little Late This Year."

When it comes to the annual NLG Writers' Competition, spring always seems to arrive a little early. It seems that way, at least, here at NLG Central — for no sooner have the robins and the crocuses made their first appearance than it's time to get the contest on the road.

You'll find the rules for this year's competition elsewhere in this issue, and there are few changes. Perhaps the most significant is that we have created a new subcategory for auction catalogs.

It has been suggested that smaller auction firms — particularly those with highly specialized offerings — cannot compete effectively against the major houses with their lavish catalogs featuring collections worth millions of dollars.

In an effort to provide well-earned recognition to these smaller firms, which often conduct extremely worthwhile sales with catalogs to match, we have divided the category into two parts. One will cover catalogs dealing with coins and paper money, while the other will be limited to catalogs that feature books and exnumia. Obviously, this won't rectify all of the inherent inequities, but we think it represents a major first step in that direction.

To be eligible for consideration, books, articles and other materials must have been published or broadcast between May 1, 1997 and April 30, 1998. And three copies of each entry must be submitted, except where otherwise noted.

For the second year, we have included a category recognizing works disseminated via CD-ROM or one of the other new electronic media. Both original works and conversions of existing works will be eligible for consideration. The response last year was disappointing, but we're hoping that with the passage of time, more potential entrants will be aware of the contest this time and will choose to compete.

I'm pleased to report that Scott Travers is serving again this year as contest coordinator — a role he has carried out with exceptional effectiveness for the better part of a decade.

It is often said that if you want a job done well, you give it to a person who is busy — the point being that he or she is busy because of a proven capacity to get things done and done efficiently. Scott is living proof that

this is true. Despite the major additional demands on his time as vice president of the ANA, he continues to serve the Guild with the utmost dedication and distinction.

Entries should be sent to Scott Travers, c/o Sal Germano, SGRC Inc., 625 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne, N.J. 07506. Sal Germano, a good friend of the Guild's, is generously making his premises available as the reception center for this year's entries. We greatly appreciate his assistance.

NLG NEWSLETTER

Since 1968, the official
publication of the
Numismatic
Literary Guild, Inc.

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Please note VERY carefully: Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet providing information specified in the rules. And since each entry must be submitted in triplicate, there must be three cover sheets — one for each copy of the entry. Anyone who fails to abide by this requirement will be subject to disqualification.

I include this caveat in my contest message each year. And yet, year in and year out, at least some entries inevitably arrive without proper cover sheets. Failure to provide complete cover sheets, and enough copies of those sheets, creates unneeded – and very much unwanted – work for the contest coordinator. It also jeopardizes the entrant's chances of winning, for the entry might not end up in the intended category if it doesn't have a suitable cover sheet.

If the contest coordinator, or anyone else involved in judging entries, should decide to disqualify any entry lacking a cover sheet, I will support that action.

Entries must be postmarked by Saturday, June 20, and received by Thursday, June 25, and no exceptions will be made. We must have sufficient time to judge the entries and get the plaques engraved prior to the ANA convention — and that will be a logistical challenge this year, given the convention's location in the beautiful but off-the-beaten-track city of Portland, Ore.

As Newsletter Editor David Alexander reports in his column elsewhere in this issue, we have lost a number of longtime members and friends in recent months. Death has claimed an unusually

high number of well-known numismatists in the last year or so, and we mourn their passing. At the same time, we cherish the memories that endure of the happy times we shared over the years.

As a pleasant counterpoint, we're delighted to announce that our youngest-ever applicant has just been accepted as a member of the Guild. David Shapiro, an 11-year-old fifth-grader from Brooklyn, N.Y., gives us a welcome infusion of youthful vim and vigor. And, in what may be a first, he obtained the money to pay for his application fee and dues by writing an article — one that appears in the current issue of *Rare Coin Review*. Details on this unusual development are reported in this issue.

After several detours, we've finally completed the election that began a year ago. And while we encountered some speed bumps along the way, and learned from the experience, we did emerge with three exceptional members for our Board of Directors.

Margo Russell is back for an encore term of office and having worked with her on numerous occasions in the past, I can say without hesitation that she will be a tremendous source of help and wise counsel.

Bob Van Ryzin and Paul Gilkes are newcomers to the Board, but I count them both as old friends and associates. It will be particularly beneficial to the Guild to have such direct pipelines to both Iola, Wis., and Sidney, Ohio.

All four contenders in this marathon election were excellent

candidates, so the Guild would have won no matter what the outcome. Unfortunately, there had to be one short straw, and it went to Mark Benvenuto. I hope that Mark will throw his hat in the ring again sometime, and I welcome his interest in serving the Guild.

The terms of two Board members — Bob Julian and Tom DeLorey — expire this year, and while both are willing and eligible to serve an additional two-year term, I'm inviting nominations for any other would-be candidates at this time.

For details, see the article elsewhere in this issue.

Before closing, I'd like to correct something I wrote in the last installment of this column. In expressing my delight at receiving the Glenn Smedley Award from the ANA last August in New York City, I stated that Glenn had been the "organizer and cataloger" of the ANA library in Colorado Springs.

While it's true that Glenn spent many hours assisting the ANA staff, including the staff of the library, the actual cataloging was done by Ann McNair, a graduate of a library science school in California, who was hired for the assignment by the ANA's librarian at the time, Geneva Karlson.

"While [Glenn] was a great supporter of the library, he did not organize or catalog the library," Geneva advises me. "[Ann McNair] was responsible, along with the librarian, for setting up our cataloging system."

3 NEW MEMBERS JOIN NLG BOARD

The NLG Board of Directors has a new look following the Guild's recent election. One past director and two new ones were chosen by the membership to serve until mid-1999.

The newly elected directors are Margo Russell, who has served with distinction as a Board member in the past, plus Bob Van Ryzin and Paul Gilkes, who are both starting their first terms as directors but are both veteran members of the Guild and prominent members of the numismatic press corps.

This marks the first time in recent memory that the Board has included current staff members from both Krause Publications and Amos Press. Bob Van Ryzin is editor of *Coins Magazine* and Paul Gilkes is a senior staff writer at *Coin World*. Both have won numerous awards in the NLG Writers' Competition over the years.

Margo Russell, of course, was editor of *Coin World* for more than two decades and has continued to immerse herself in numismatic activities since passing that torch to Beth Deisher.

The election was a four-way race. Mark Benvenuto, a writer whose works appear regularly in *Coins Magazine*, fell short in his first bid for the Board.

The newly seated members replace David T. Alexander, Col. Bill Murray and Scott Travers, all of whom have just completed two consecutive two-year terms.

The two holdover members, R.W. "Bob" Julian and Thomas K. "Tom" DeLorey, are now completing their current terms. Both are eligible for reelection, and both have signified their willingness to serve again if elected.

Under revised by-laws, the two incumbents' names will appear automatically on the ballot. Other interested candidates will be listed there, as well, if they receive at least three nominations. These

should be mailed or faxed to Ed Reiter, Executive Director, 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, N.J. 07452. They must be postmarked by June 20 and received by June 25.



NBS WEB SITE

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society has established an informational Web site at: http://www.money.org/club_nbs.html.

Wayne Homren, webmaster, invites interested people to take a look. The site identifies the purpose of the NBS, and lists activities of the NBS including publications, meetings, educational forums and awards. An informational section lists types of numismatic literature, some selected literature lists, exhibits, and the index of the NBS periodical, *The Asylum*. An organizational section provides information about the NBS, including an application for membership.

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research and scholarship in the field of United States numismatics. Mr. Bass will also be missed in the area of respiratory health research, where his generosity extended the lives of thousands of sufferers.

The latter foundation will draw on the matchless collections Mr. Bass formed over the last 30 years, including what is probably the greatest collection of U.S. gold coins by die variety ever assembled. A former president of the New York-based American Numismatic Society (ANS), Mr. Bass at one time ardently hoped to relocate the society's museum in his hometown of Dallas. It is a commentary on his life that Mr. Bass will be missed not only in the field of numismatics but in business, politics, religion and sport.

The California community has lost some of its bright lights as well.

Longtime hobby leader **Charles G. Colver** died on Jan. 17, 1998, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. A past president of the California State Numismatic Association, he was also the first recipient of Krause Publications' Numismatic Ambassador Award in April 1974. A resident of Covina, Calif., for many years, Charlie served his city as a councilman and mayor at various times.

His numismatic interests were far-ranging, though he seemed especially proud of his collection of National Bank Notes issued by California banks. He was also proud of his appointment by President Richard M. Nixon to the 1974 United States Assay

Commission and his subsequent membership in the Old Time Assay Commissioners Society (OTACS).

A forest ranger and fire dispatcher by profession, he was a key figure in efforts to combat the devastating brush fires that long plagued Southern California's dry mountains. When Charlie retired, the Forest Service named a 5,511-foot-high mountaintop after him. Though a modest man, Charlie was sufficiently impressed by this extraordinary honor that he had 39mm aluminum medals struck in honor of Colver Peak.

A founding member of NLG, **James L. Betton III** of Santa Monica, Calif., died on Feb. 12, 1998. Jim was a true pioneer in the collecting of world coins, known as "foreign coins" in far-off 1960. That was the pivotal year in which he and others in the Bay Cities Coin Club — including the late Lew Upton, Max Wedertz and E. Carolyn Nestrack — set off to found the Society for International Numismatics (SIN), which became one of the most successful of all American numismatic specialty groups. By September 1962, SIN had 20 members (No. 20 was the present writer), and it was to expand to more than 700 in its heyday. One of Jim Betton's last services to SIN was arranging the housing of its magnificent library at the fabulous Getty Museum.

Many fellow collectors knew Jim as a leader throughout the busy circuit of statewide and local California numismatic organizations and conventions. His activities included the provisional chairmanship of NLG in 1968 and the Canadian Numismatic Association, of which he was a

governor a few years ago. Jim was a candidate for the American Numismatic Association Board of Governors some years ago. It may be said with candor that he never shrank from controversy and indeed relished it. Organizational life may have been hectic, but it was never dull when Jim was involved.

Adeline Bebee, widow of veteran Omaha dealer Aubrey Bebee, died during the last year as well. Generations of American collectors knew her and her husband, whose numismatic careers spanned the era of the 1930s U.S. commemorative craze through ownership of the J.V. McDermott 1913 Liberty Head nickel and the Jerry Buss 1804 silver dollar.

A respected numismatist in her own right, she was a member of the 1969 U.S. Assay Commission (her husband served two years later) and was a familiar sight at many ANA conventions and regional coin gatherings. She and her late husband were major benefactors of the ANA Museum in Colorado Springs, presenting their 1913 nickel and 1804 dollar to its collections in 1989-91. Their passing marks the end of an era for the national organization.

British numismatics and numismatic auctions suffered a loss with the death of **Robert S. Archer** on March 3, 1998. A member of the Yale University Class of 1960, Bob found relaxation in coins of Britain and the Commonwealth during his career in advertising. He became a full-time professional numismatist as the first president of Spink U.S.A. in 1962 and was later associated with William Doyle Galleries of



1998 NLG WRITERS' COMPETITION RULES



*Welcome to this year's
NLG competition!*

Please read these rules carefully if
you wish to participate in the contest.

1. All NLG members are eligible to participate if their dues have been paid.
2. All entries must have been published between May 1, 1997, and April 30, 1998.
3. Entries must be postmarked not later than June 20, 1998 and received not later than June 25, 1998.
4. All entries must be the work of entrant or must have been produced under entrant's editorial direction.
5. The judges reserve the right to change the category in which an entry may compete, if they believe such change is necessary to assure equity of all participants.
6. Three (3) copies of each entry must be submitted in all categories except portfolio and software. In these two categories, one copy will suffice. Quality photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles are acceptable.
7. No entries will be returned under any circumstance.
8. No entrant may submit more than one (1) entry in any single category. (The same entry may also be included in the portfolio competition, however.)

9. In categories with only one entry, judges may decide that no award will be given, or may substitute Special NLG Recognition for the regular NLG Award.
10. All judges' decisions are binding and final; confidentiality of all judging is absolute.
11. Failure to conform to all rules will be cause for disqualification from the competition.
12. All entries must be sent to:

Scott A. Travers
c/o Sal Germano.
SGRC Inc.
625 Lafayette Ave.
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

13. Each entry copy must have the following information attached or it will be disqualified:

- CLASS
- CATEGORY
- ENTRANT'S NAME & ADDRESS
- PUBLICATION
- PUBLICATION DATE
- TITLE OR HEADING
- AUTHOR (IF OTHER THAN ENTRANT)

.....

*The following classes and
categories are in force in 1998.*
**PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR
ENTRIES CAREFULLY to be certain
they qualify in the proper category!**

CLASS I **BOOKS**

Books may be submitted by author, publisher or editor. Three copies must be submitted. Eligible are new books or those accepted by the judges at their sole discretion as substantially revised versions of earlier works.

1. **BOOK OF THE YEAR**
The work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics: Criteria include overall reader appeal, research quality, pho-

tographic, printing and graphic excellence, cover and typography where applicable. Books submitted in the specialized categories below may be considered for Book of the Year as well.

2. BEST SPECIALIZED BOOK ON

- a United States Coins
- b World Coins
- c U.S. Paper Money
- d World Paper Money
- e Tokens & Medals
- f Numismatic Investments
- g Museum & Exhibition Catalogs

CLASS II-A **U.S. COMMERCIAL** **NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES** *(Coins, COINage magazines)*

3. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES** (3) copies of articles dealing with:
 - a Coins
 - b Tokens & Medals
 - c Paper Money
4. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
5. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Criteria include overall numismatic appeal, features, departments, graphics, journalistic and editorial excellence as applicable.

CLASS II-B **WORLD COMMERCIAL** **NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES** *(World Coin News, The Celator, similar overseas publications)*

6. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES** (3) copies of articles dealing with:
 - a Coins
 - b Tokens & Medals
 - c Paper Money
7. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.

8. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Same criteria as category 5 above.

CLASS III
NON-PROFIT OR CLUB
NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

(*The Numismatist, TAMS Journal, The Shekel*, etc. NOTE: National publications will be judged separately from regional, state, and local publications.)

9. **BEST ARTICLE**
(3) copies of articles dealing with: any subject related to numismatics
(*ONE Award*)
10. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
11. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher and/or editor. Same criteria as category 5 above.

CLASS IV
NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

12. **BEST SPOT NEWS STORY** or continuing coverage of a developing story in numismatics.
13. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES** (3) copies of articles dealing with:
a Coins
b Tokens & Medals
c Paper Money
14. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
15. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Same criteria as category 5 above.

- CLASS V**
NON-NUMISMATIC
NEWSPAPERS
16. **THE MAURICE M. GOULD MEMORIAL AWARD**
Entries may be submitted by publisher, editor or columnist

of any coin column appearing regularly in any non-numismatic newspaper of any size circulation.

CLASS VI
AUCTION CATALOGS

17. Submit (3) copies of each catalog entered. Criteria include cover design, overall eye appeal, format, graphics and layout, in-depth research and quality of description. Entries may be submitted by auction firm, auctioneer or cataloger.
a Coin and currency auction catalogs
b Catalogs for auctions of books and exnumia

CLASS VII
COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS

18. **LEE MARTIN FOUNDER'S AWARD** for Best Investment Newsletter: Criteria include overall reader appeal, quality of research and writing, and graphics as applicable. Submit (3) copies EACH of (3) issues, total: 9 items.
19. **BEST DEALER-PUBLISHED** magazine or newspaper. Criteria include overall reader appeal, quality of research and writing, and graphics excellence. Submit (3) copies EACH of at least (3) different issues.

CLASS VIII
BEST ALL-AROUND
PORTFOLIO

20. Collection of writings and/or photographs and related items demonstrating numismatic writing ability and versatility. **Organization and presentation will count as heavily as volume.** Only one copy of portfolio need be submitted; other copies of items included in portfolio may also be submitted in other relevant categories at entrant's option.

CLASS IX
BEST WRITER IN
NLG NEWSLETTER

21. *NLG Newsletter* editor alone selects winner. Criteria include writing skill and style, numismatic or organization support, content to inform the member-readers. No entries accepted, editor alone decides.

CLASS X
AUDIO-VISUAL

22. **RADIO:** Best news story, feature report or continuing series involving numismatics. Entries must include standard size audio cassette of story, feature report of (3) selections from continuing series, accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of broadcast, call letters and location of radio station as well as information required in NLG rules listed above.
23. **AUDIO:** Best audio program involving numismatics, but non-broadcast. Includes audio tracks from numismatic slide shows, educational tapes, audio newsletters and other presentations. Entries must include standard size audio cassette, written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required in NLG rules above.
24. **TELEVISION:** Best spot news story, feature report or continuing series involving numismatics. Entries must include standard size cassette recording of television broadcast or (3) selections from continuing series. Tape must be either half-inch VHS or 3/4-inch professional videocassette, and must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of broadcast, call letters and location of station, plus information required in NLG rules above.

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25. **VIDEO:** Best non-broadcast slide film, movie film or video tape presentation involving numismatics. Entry must include audio as well as visual materials, either written script or sound track of film, audio or video cassette used in presentation.

Entry must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required by NLG rules above.

26. **SOFTWARE:** Best presentation of a new numismatic work, or new presentation of a previously published numismatic work, in CD-ROM, DVD, floppy disk or any other electronic format. Only one copy of the work need be submitted. Entry must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required by NLG rules above.

27. CLEMENT F. BAILEY MEMORIAL AWARD

First presented in the 1987

competition, this award was endowed by Jim Miller of Miller Magazines in memory of an especially beloved member of the numismatic writing community and NLG founder, Clement F. Bailey. This award recognizes excellence among new writers in numismatics, whose first published writings appeared during the previous year. **Nominees are supplied solely by numismatic publishers.**

THE CLEMY AWARD

In a category of its own since 1968 is the Clemetry Award. The highest honor of NLG is bestowed annually during the NLG Bash on an NLG member in recognition of writing skill, dedication to numismatics, sense of humor and dedication to the Numismatic Literary Guild. Nominations are submitted by members of the board to the previous year's winner, who makes the final choice.

ROLL OF HONOR CLEMY AWARD WINNERS 1968-1997

| | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1968 | Clement F. Bailey |
| 1969 | Edward C. Rochette |
| 1970 | Lee Martin |
| 1971 | Margo Russell |
| 1972 | Virginia Culver |
| 1973 | Maurice M. Gould |
| 1974 | Eva B. Adams |
| 1975 | Ray Byrne |
| 1976 | Chester L. Krause |
| 1977 | Richard S. Yeoman |
| 1978 | Lee F. Hewitt |
| 1979 | Abe Kosoff |
| 1980 | Glenn Smedley |
| 1981 | Arlie Slabaugh |
| 1982 | Eric P. Newman |
| 1983 | Kenneth Bressett |
| 1984 | Donn Pearlman |
| 1985 | Walter Breen |
| 1986 | Ed Reiter |
| 1987 | David Alexander |
| 1988 | James L. Miller |
| 1989 | Q. David Bowers |
| 1990 | David L. Ganz |
| 1991 | Clifford Mishler |
| 1992 | R.W. Julian |
| 1993 | Russell Rulau |
| 1994 | Elvira Clain-Stefanelli |
| 1995 | Beth Deisher |
| 1996 | Col. Bill Murray |
| 1997 | Alan Herbert |

We thank the members of NLG whose articles have enriched COINage magazine since 1964.

Miller
Magazines, Inc.

*We
Invite
Your
Submissions*



New York, where he arranged the landmark auction of the great Loye Lauder Collection. He joined the staff of Stack's-Coin Galleries in 1985.

Bob took over *Coin World's* "British Coins" column, which had been inaugurated by fellow NLG member Michael J. Hodder. He found writing challenging, but produced a series of memorable columns before ill health forced him to drop the assignment late in 1997.

Another longtime NLG member who left us in this busy year was **Raymond H. Williamson** of Lynchburg, Va.. An Iowa native, Ray was a General Electric electronics engineer from 1928 until retirement in 1972. A collector since 1917, he was a frequent contributor to *Coin World*, *The Colonial Newsletter*, *The Numismatist*, *Penny Wise* and *Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletin*. He was a charter member of the Empire State Numismatic Association, NLG and Early American Coppers (EAC). He chaired the American Numismatic Society's Committee on U.S. Coins in 1953 and was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the 1968 U.S. Assay Commission, remaining active with OTACS until his death.

Numismatic bibliophiles were especially hard hit by the death of famed collector, researcher and connoisseur of fine bindings Armand Champa. A Massachusetts native, Armand was the builder of what may have been the greatest collection of United States numismatic books, periodicals and ephemera ever assembled. Later based in Louisville, Ky., he was an active promoter of roller skating and owned nine

rinks throughout Kentucky.

Before zeroing in on numismatic literature, he was a collector of U.S. pattern coins. A real pioneer in the literature field, he pursued its rarities from 1969 and blazed a trail soon followed by many others. He was one of the organizers of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS) and served it as an officer and as a contributor to its journal, *The Asylum*. The sale of his collection by Bowers & Merena Galleries was an important landmark in the field of numismatic literature, and his dedication to fine bindings helped energize that area of bibliophilia as well. The epic bus trip, lunch and library tour he hosted at the 1988 Cincinnati ANA convention will long be remembered.

Another loss to numismatics and its literature was the sudden death of **Kenneth M. Lowe** of Euclid, Ohio, on Feb. 23, 1998. Ken was partner with Myron Xenos in The Money Tree, one of America's fastest-growing dealerships in numismatic literature, which conducted mail-bid literature sales since 1987. He wrote the firm's in-house organ, *Out On A Limb*, a humorous and highly readable publication which received the 1988 NLG Best Commercial Publication award. Ken was 51 and suffered from the effects of diabetes. An active NBS member, he served the group as its president in 1989-91.

With Myron Xenos, Ken pioneered in-depth collecting of publications and ephemera relating to prominent numismatic personalities of the present and recent past, notably Q. David Bowers (Bowersiana) and Walter Breen. A solid contribution to the entire numismatic field was their publi-

cation of Pete Smith's *American Numismatic Biographies* in 1992, distributed by Money Tree's Gold Leaf Press.

NLG extends its sympathies to the families and friends of all these departed members, whose passing reminds us all of the continuous need for new members to keep the Guild hale and hearty into the next millennium!

YN, 11, BECOMES YOUNGEST-EVER NLG MEMBER

David Shapiro, an 11-year-old Young Numismatist from Brooklyn, N.Y., has become the youngest member in NLG history — and has done it with a flourish, obtaining financial backing for his membership application fee by writing an article for *Rare Coin Review*, the official publication of Bowers and Merena Galleries.

In addition to this latest article, David also has had his writings published in *Errorscope* and *The Numismatist*. He is a member of the ANA, TEC, CONECA and CoinMasters.

Following is the article David wrote for *Rare Coin Review*, along with an introductory note by Dave Bowers — who, by the way, not only provided the \$35 fee but also served as David's sponsor for membership.

A NEW NUMISMATIC AUTHOR

Recently, Ed Reiter, a leading light in the Numismatic Literary Guild, suggested that David Shapiro, age 11, raise \$35 as an initiation fee for the NLG by submitting an article for publication in the *Rare Coin Review*. Well, we

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certainly encourage young blood in the hobby, as we ourselves became interested in coins at age 13. By these standards, Dave Shapiro is really a youngster.

All of this said, here is David's article.

THE STARTING STORY

BY DAVID SHAPIRO (AGE 11)

It was a beautiful Saturday morning as I was packing my bags getting ready to go to Florida.

"Mom," I asked, "can I take some baseball cards to look at on the plane?" "No," Mom answered. "Pleeeeeease?"

"Well, all right," she answered.

"Yes," I whispered to myself, now I know which Cal Ripken Jr's. I need. With that, the cab

stopped in front of our house, we got in and drove to the airport. When I was there, after eating my first Pizza Hut Personal Pizza, I saw a pretty big machine. It had four pictures, one of the World Trade Center, one of the Statue of Liberty, one showing a heart, and one showing a big apple. I was only five, so I didn't know what was what, but I begged my mom to put 50 cents and a penny in and get what came out. I watched it as it squeezed my penny.

"Mom!" I wailed, "I want my penny back! This machine is very bad. Give it a time-out!"

My mom smiled. I wailed. I stopped wailing when a big squished thing came out.

"It's my penny! No time-out for the machine," I screamed. I saw a big apple. I bent it. "Look, mommy, I can bend a penny!"

"Yes, sweetie that's great!" my

mom answered. When we were boarding the plane I still thought of the penny, and not my cards. I saw written on the back of the coin "elongated." That was my first coin.

When we got to Florida I forgot about the penny. I asked to be taken to a baseball card stamp and coin shop on Sunday with my grandpa. He said that anything gotten there would be my "Florida gift" and I couldn't get any toys. I said okay. When we got to the shop I looked at all the cards that were there. They were all expensive.

One guy there lit a cigar and smoke filled the room. I wanted to get out as soon as I could so I said, "bye." As I was leaving, the guy said. "Hey. kid, start collecting coins with the big guys."

In the letter I sent to David Shapiro, I sent him a check for \$35.

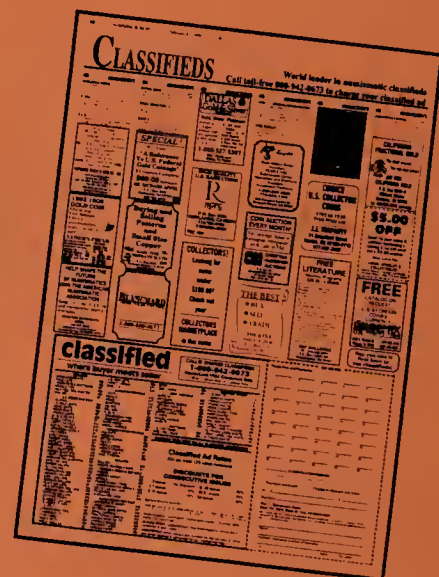
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ART KAGIN BECOMES A LIFE MEMBER

A.M. "Art" Kagin has a new definition for our numismatic lexicon. An "optimist," he says, is someone who becomes a life member of the NLG at the age of 79.

Art fits that definition to a "T," for he has just become the latest life member of the Guild. And needless to say, we're delighted to add his name to that select group and hope he will remain on the roster — in a very active capacity — for many years to come.

Of course, Art has made his optimism — and activism — very clear in recent years in other ways, as well. Most impressively,

he ran for vice president of the ANA last year at the age of 78 — and very nearly won in a hard-fought contest.

Art has been a longtime member and supporter of the Guild, and we're pleased that he has now taken his membership (as athletes like to say) to the next level.

For those who may be thinking of following his example, life membership entails a one-time payment of \$250. In addition to covering dues for the rest of the member's life, this payment also entitles him or her to the .999-fine one-ounce silver medal issued by the Guild on our 25th anniversary in 1993 ... a copy of *NLG: A 25-Year History*, the 50-page booklet written on that occasion by David T. Alexander ... and a scroll suitable for framing and display.

Anyone interested in applying for life membership should write to Executive Director Ed Reiter, 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, N.J. 07452.

Another old friend of the Guild, well-known numismatic author, publisher and bookseller Sanford J. "Sandy" Durst, has returned to active membership after years on the sidelines.

In addition to publishing and/or selling dozens of books by other authors in the field, Sandy also has written or edited several important numismatic books. These include *Contemporary World Gold Coins*, *Private Bankers of U.S. and Canada*, *Early American Coppers Anthology* and *Comprehensive Guide to American Colonial Coinage*. Welcome back, Sandy!



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